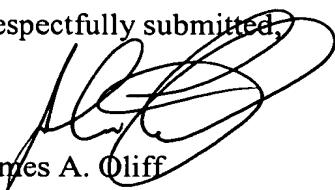


REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification is amended. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Registration No. 27,075

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JAO:JWF/ldg

Date: December 31, 2003

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